

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for preventing formation of leachable mercury compounds during TCLP testing of mercury vapor discharge lamps having an envelope of light transmitting glass and an amount of elemental mercury which comprising incorporating into the lamp structure an amount of pure gelatin or a degradation product of pure gelatin in the form of a discrete button which is effective to substantially prevent formation of ferric and cuprous compounds when iron and copper components of the lamp are exposed to moisture and acidic conditions.
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2. The method of claim 1 wherein the gelatin is incorporated in the lamp in an amount of about 0.02 to about 3 grams per lamp.
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3. The method according to claim 1 wherein the gelatin is incorporated into the lamp structure on an end cap.
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4. A method for preventing formation of leachable mercury compounds during TCLP testing of mercury vapor discharge lamps having an envelope of light transmitting glass and an amount of elemental mercury wherein the method comprises incorporating into an end cap of the lamp structure an amount of pure gelatin or a degradation product of pure gelatin in the form of a discrete button in a range between about 0.02 grams and about 3 grams per lamp which is effective to substantially prevent formation of ferric and cuprous compounds when iron and copper components of the lamp are exposed to moisture and acidic conditions.
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5. A mercury vapor arc discharge lamp comprising pure gelatin or degradation product of pure gelatin incorporated in the lamp structure in the form of a discrete button wherein the gelatin is present in a range between about 0.02 grams and about 3 grams per lamp.
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6. The mercury vapor arc discharge lamp of claim 6 wherein the gelatin is incorporated into an end cap of the lamp structure.

RD-25235USA is a CIP of RD-25235

7. A mercury vapor arc discharge lamp comprising pure gelatin in the form of a discrete button in a range between about 0.02 and about 3 grams per lamp wherein the gelatin is incorporated in an end cap of the lamp structure.